

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

To place the subject application in better form, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. Also, a new abstract is presented in accordance with preferred practice. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 11-19 are presented for consideration in lieu of claims 1-10, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11 and 18 are independent. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 6 and 7 were indicated as containing allowable subject and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of their base and intervening claims. Claims 6 and 7 have been so rewritten as new claims 18 and 19. Applicant submits, therefore, that these claims should be deemed allowable at the outset. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicant submits that claims 11-17 patentably define features of the device manufacturing apparatus of the present invention.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 1, 2 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent application publication number 2002/0097205 to Nakamura. Claims 1-5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,753,942 to

Nagahashi. Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 1-10. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. In addition, Applicant submits that independent claim 11, for example, as presented, amplifies the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 11 recites a device manufacturing apparatus for use in manufacturing a device. The apparatus includes a main booth in which an exposure apparatus is installed, a transport booth in which a mechanism arranged to transfer an object to and/or from the exposure apparatus is installed, an air conditioning booth having a temperature adjusting device which supplies a temperature adjusting gas to the main booth and the transport booth to control temperature therein, a duct through which the temperature gas, at least in the transport booth, is recovered to the air conditioning booth, a first component and a second component. The first component is arranged in the space that is outside the duct, but inside the main booth, to detect a state of a predetermined portion in the space or to drive or to control the predetermined portion. The second component is arranged in the duct and is electrically connected to the first component to receive an electrical signal that pertains to the state of the predetermined portion from the first component, or to supply an electrical signal generated to drive or to control the predetermined portion through the first component.

Accordingly, one of the salient features of the present invention recited in independent claim 11 is that the apparatus includes a main booth, a transport booth, an air conditioning booth, a duct through which a temperature adjusting gas, at least in the transport booth, can be recovered

to the air conditioning booth, a first component arranged in a space that is outside the outside the duct, but inside the main booth, and a second component arranged in the duct.

Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention as recited in independent claim 11.

The Nakamura publication shows a duct 13, a power source 9 arranged inside the duct 13, and a main power source unit 14 and a control unit 15 both arranged outside the duct 13. Applicant submits, however, that the Nakamura publication fails to disclose that the main power unit 14 and the control unit 15 are arranged inside any booth or chamber in which a stepper is installed. In addition, Applicant submits that the Nakamura publication does not teach or suggest a transport booth and a duct, in which a second component is arranged and through which a temperature adjusting gas in the transport booth is recovered to an air conditioning booth. Applicant submits, therefore, that the Nakamura publication fails to teach or suggest salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claim 11.

The Nagahashi patent shows a heat-discharge box 24 and a relay board 12 arranged inside the heat-discharge box 24. Applicant submits, however, that the Nagahashi patent fails to teach or suggest a transport booth and a duct in which a second component is arranged and through which a temperature adjusting gas in the transport booth is recovered to an air conditioning booth. Applicant submits, therefore, that the Nagahashi patent likewise fails to teach or suggest salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claim 11.

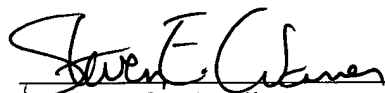
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 11, also is patentably defined over the cited art.

Dependent claims 12-17 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 11. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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